



News From

Cheryl Dinolfo

Monroe County Executive

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DINOLFO ANNOUNCES BIRTH OF SEA LION PUP AT SENECA PARK ZOO

County Executive **Cheryl Dinolfo** and Seneca Park Zoo officials are pleased to announce the birth of a California sea lion pup at the Zoo. The pup was born earlier this week to 7-year-old Marina and the gender will be determined by animal care staff as the pup develops.

*"We are so excited for this incredible addition to our Seneca Park Zoo family. The California sea lions are always fun for visitors to watch and now with our new pup, there is an added element of enjoyment," said **Dinolfo**. "The summer months are a great time to visit the Zoo and we hope with our baby sea lion pup, residents and visitors alike come to meet our new friend and take in all that the Seneca Park Zoo has to offer."*

The pup will spend time bonding with its mother Marina, both on and off-exhibit, during the next few weeks. *"We are going to follow the lead of Marina as we care for the new pup,"* says Zoo Director **Larry Sorel**. *"Her instincts as an experienced mom will guide the process, while we keep a close watch on the pup's physical and social progress."*

Seneca Park Zoo participates in the Association of Zoo and Aquariums (AZA) Species Survival Plan (SSP) for the California sea lion and has successfully raised four pups to date. This program aims to sustain in conservation care genetically diverse populations of California sea lions, which face environmental threats from pollution and the fishing industry in their natural range.

Marina came to the Zoo in 2011 from the Marine Mammal Care Center at Fort MacArthur after being found stranded on a beach in Los Angeles County, California. This is her second pup to be born at Seneca Park Zoo. The first, P.J., was born in 2013 and was moved to Riverbanks Zoo & Garden in Columbia, South Carolina as part of an SSP breeding recommendation in April of this year.

The Zoo is home to two other California sea lions: Boomerang, a 10-year-old male, and Lily, a 7-year-old female.

"We are thrilled to welcome a new sea lion pup and to share the story of how we are working to conserve this species with our guests," says Zoo Society Executive Director **Pamela Reed Sanchez**.

The sea lions reside in the *Rocky Coasts* section of the Zoo and can be viewed from multiple locations, including an indoor, underwater viewing gallery. Plan a visit this summer to see the sea lions in action and welcome the new pup to Rochester.

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